



Ag in Action

July / August 2005

From: The Director's Desk

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In this Issue:

- West Nile Cases on the Rise **2**
- First Case of "Sleeping Sickness" This Year **3**
- Wind Advisories Now Online **3**
- Retired Ag Inspector Ropes an Art Awarded **4**
- Hires and Retires **5**
- Mayonnaise Might Be Safer Than You Think **5**
- What Is A Cactus? The Raw Truth **6**
- News You Can Use: Careful With Your Next Move **7**
- Birthdays **8**

More than 30 teachers had the chance to become students and learn why agriculture is worth \$6.6 billion to our state each year. Summer Ag Institute takes educators from around the state, rents buses and tours a real dairy farm, pecan orchard, packing house, nursery, equipment supplier, rose farm and even a livestock auction.

These real-life experiences, and countless others provided throughout the week, inspire these teachers to not only recognize the importance of our industry, but also share their knowledge in the classroom throughout the year. The University of Arizona's Maricopa County Extension Service, with those from Arizona Department of Agriculture, and numerous other entities provide the scholarships necessary to make this annual trip a reality.



Educators learn how 'hi-tech' milking has become at Triple G Dairy!



Teachers at the Sponsors banquet commented, "This week was wonderful! Very educational, great people. Excellent resources. Thanks!!!"

Unlike previous years, Arizona Farm Bureau members sponsored different teachers this year by inviting the educators into their homes to see what a day-to-day farm operation looks like.

One evening of the week, the Sponsors Banquet was held here at the Department with the theme of "Arizona Grown." Our Associate Director Jack Peterson shared why the Department exists and what we provide to our industry.

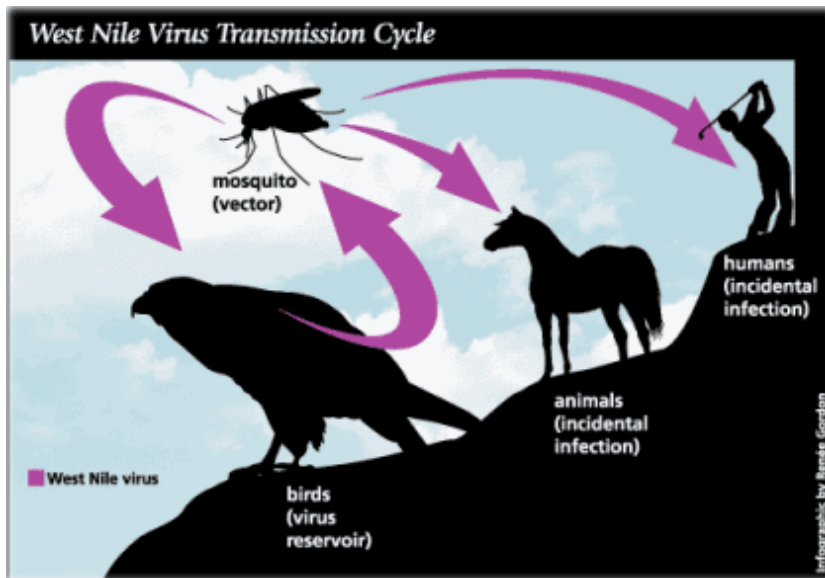
While the tour was a success, we know the education these teachers gained from this trip will reach countless children across our state and hopefully remind them that while the tile roofs are multiplying, Arizona is still painted green.



West Nile Cases On the Rise

A sixth case of West Nile Virus has been discovered in Camp Verde, Arizona. The first case this year occurred in Mesa, Arizona on April 20. The following is a list of cases so far this year.

Mesa –1 case
Buckeye -2 cases
Laveen –2 cases
Camp Verde –1 case



Last year, 109 cases were discovered in horses in Arizona. West Nile affects horses much more often than any other domestic animals. Many horses infected with West Nile do not develop any illness, but of horses that become ill about one-third die or need to be euthanized. In general, other livestock and poultry do not show any illness if infected with West Nile. Below are some common questions about West Nile in horses.

How do horses become infected with West Nile virus?

The same way humans become infected-by the bite of infectious mosquitoes. The mosquitoes become infected after feeding on an infected bird. Mosquitoes cannot get West Nile virus from an infected horse.

Can I get infected with West Nile virus by caring for an infected horse?

West Nile virus is transmitted by infectious mosquitoes. The infected horse is not contagious to humans or to other horses. Normal infection control precautions should be followed when caring for a sick horse.

Can a horse infected with West Nile virus infect horses in neighboring stalls?

No. There is no documented evidence that West Nile virus is transmitted between horses.

How do I protect my horse?

Control insects in the area and have your horse vaccinated.

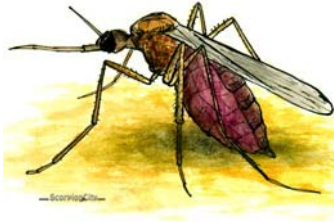


Additions and Corrections

The following groups also attended the legislative reception with the Governor, as highlighted in our Director's Desk last month: Arizona Farm Bureau, Arizona Cotton Growers, Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association, Arizona Nursery Association, Arizona Cattle Feeders, Arizona Cattlemen's Association and Western Growers.



First Case of "Sleeping Sickness" This Year



The first case of sleeping sickness, or Western Equine Encephalomyelitis, has been discovered this year. Three flocks of sentinel chickens (used for detection) located between Yuma and Gadsden, Arizona have been found to carry the disease. While these flocks will likely not show symptoms, birds act as a reservoir of the disease and also serve as an indicator that mosquitoes infected with the disease are on the move. This disease has been in the United States for a number of years.

This disease closely mimics West Nile Virus: It is transmitted via mosquitoes, can be deadly in humans and livestock and the symptoms are nearly identical. We typically refer to this type of disease as "viral encephalitis" or "sleeping sickness" because the effects of the virus in the brain make the animal often act "sleepy".

What are the clinical symptoms in humans?

Symptoms range from mild flu-like illness to frank encephalitis, coma and death.

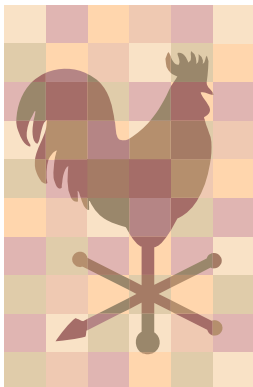
What is the result, if left untreated, in livestock?

Horses will act "dumb" or may die, as this infection causes inflammation in the brain.

Are any avenues of protection available for myself or my livestock?

There is no licensed vaccine for human use, but you can vaccinate your horses against the disease. 🐾

ACTION: Wind Advisories Now Available Online



Wind advisories for Maricopa and Yuma counties are issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and are being made available to farmers and nurserymen through the Agricultural Consultation & Training program. The three day forecast is based on various meteorological parameters and pertains to the likelihood of the ambient air reaching unhealthy levels of PM₁₀. The forecasts will be broadcast faxed by the ACT program on HIGH wind days to regulated farmers and nurserymen alerting them to take action to reduce emissions of PM₁₀ by implementing their dust control action plans. State and county air quality inspectors may be conducting surveillance of fugitive dust sources in the counties on days that are deemed as high risk for PM₁₀.

The Department's Agricultural Consultation & Training air quality webpage has a link to up-to-date wind forecasts for anyone interested in the advisory. They can be found at: www.azda.gov/ACT/AirQuality.htm. For more information, or to receive the advisory on HIGH wind advisory days, you can contact Marcia Colquitt, ACT Air Quality Program Manager, at (602) 542-3484 or toll free outside the Phoenix area at (800) 294-0308. 🐾

Retired Ag Inspector Ropes an Art Award

Terry Organ, Kingman Miner Staff Writer

GOLDEN VALLEY - Don Hambrick needed something to do upon retiring in 2002 as a state cattle inspector, a position he held for 34 years.

Cowboy ranch art fascinated Hambrick, so he decided to give it a try. He chose acrylics, and pen and ink as mediums in which to work and taught himself.

"I like the brilliance of colors in acrylics, plus they dry fast and are easy to work with," he said. "I enjoy the rustic western appearance of the finished product with pen and ink."

Hambrick is a member of the Cowboy Artists & Photographers of America. One gains admittance into CAPA by having some of his or her works judged or "juried."

Membership permits the artist to enter certain shows without being further "juried" in order to display. That will allow Hambrick to enter the National Finals Rodeo Art Show in Las Vegas in December.

"I hope to go to the Working Ranch Cowboys Association World Finals (Art Show) in Amarillo, Texas, in November," Hambrick said.



Miner Photo/TERRY ORGAN Golden Valley resident Don Hambrick shows his acrylic painting titled "Horses for Tomorrow" that won him the Phippen Museum Foundation Award for 2005 during the Phippen Museum Western Art Show & Sale in Prescott over the Memorial Day weekend.

Roughly 160 artists participated in the Memorial Day weekend event. Hambrick sold some of his works and brought home two plaques - one for winning the Acrylics division and the other was the Phippen Museum Foundation Award for 2005.

He will have to submit some of his work to be "juried" in order to get into that show. But he has plenty of confidence he will be there based on what happened May 28-30 during the 31st annual Phippen Museum Western Art Show & Sale in Prescott.

The inscription on the plaque states it is "awarded to that piece of art which best exemplifies the Phippen Museum mission."

"George Phippen died in the early 1960s," Hambrick said. "He was one of the greatest western artists ever."

"He not only understood western art, but could do things with it no one else could."



Hires and Retires



Roy E. Olson, Livestock Officer and Brand Inspector for the Animal Services Division of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, retired June 30, 2005 after almost 19 years of service in Northwest Arizona. Roy has been an employee of the State of Arizona for almost 42 years. Three of these years, he served as a range manager of the House Rock Wild Buffalo Refuge for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He served 20 years as a highway patrolman for the Arizona Department of Public Safety and almost 19 years for the Arizona State Livestock Department and the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

Now that he has retired a couple of times, he plans “to get back to horseback, reining, reigning cow horses and cutting. That’s been my interest. Maybe I’ll go look for a good job later, if I can’t make any money at that! To all the people I’ve worked with, Thank You so much for your help and friendship.”



When It Comes to Picnics: Mayonnaise Might Be Safer Than You Think

Association for Dressings and Sauces



Mayonnaise is one of the safest products you can bring to your next picnic or event. It also contains Vitamin E and heart-healthy oils. You may have heard some of the fallacies about this versatile condiment, such as mayonnaise should never be left on the counter or that a jar of mayonnaise shouldn’t be left in the sun, but these are common misconceptions that are just not true. We’d like to enlist your help to spread the word about mayonnaise!

More than 60 years of research has proven that commercially prepared mayonnaise does not cause foodborne illness. In fact, these commercial products are carefully prepared with ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice and salt to create an unfriendly environment that slows and even inhibits the growth of bacteria and, indeed, can kill it. Commercial mayonnaise and mayonnaise-type salad dressings also contain pasteurized eggs that have been heat treated to destroy harmful bacteria and ensure product safety, so you can be sure about inviting mayonnaise to your next picnic or gathering.

Mayonnaise can also be part of a healthy diet. Mayonnaise contains Vitamin E, which may protect postmenopausal women against strokes, according to research published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. A study published by *The New England Journal of Medicine* also found a significant reduction in risk of heart disease among women who ate the most Vitamin E-rich foods, such as mayonnaise. Additionally, did you know that mayonnaise is naturally free of *trans* fats and is made with heart-healthy oils such as soybean and canola? And some mayonnaise is made with omega-3 fatty acids, which have been shown to reduce sudden death from heart attacks and have also been linked to the positive treatment of depression, arthritis and colon inflammation.



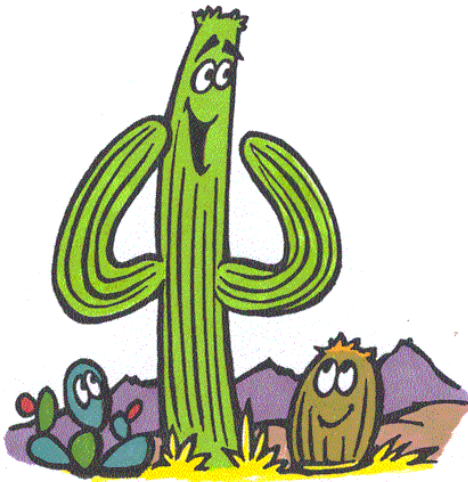
What is a Cactus? The Raw Truth

Jim McGinnins, Office of Special Investigations

The one easily observable feature that sets a cactus apart from all other plants is the AREOLE. Areoles are small, cushion-like areas on the stem from which woolly hairs, spines, lateral branches, glochids (little tufts of barbed bristles or hairs), leaves (when present), and flowers form. No other group of plants has this feature. Many spiny, succulent plants are not cacti. Plants with areoles are the only true member of the Cactus family.

THE CACTUS FAMILY

The Cactus family (Cactaceae) is divided into three subfamilies. Each has its own combination of stem, flower, and fruit features. These subfamilies are the, CEREOIDEAE, OPUNTIOIDEAE and PERESKIOIDEAE.



THE STORY OF CACTI

All cacti are natives of the Americas. They have become established in Australia, the Mediterranean region, and elsewhere throughout the world.

Cacti live in very diverse habitats. The majority of cacti live on the ground in deserts and semi-desert regions. Some, however, live on trees in tropical forests. Most cacti are sun-lovers, but many kinds grow in places shaded from strong, direct sunlight.

ABERRANT FORMS OF CACTI

The Unique, Odd, and Bizarre

In cacti that grow as columns or globes, each stem has a single, delicate growing point at the tip. This growing point is usually within a slight depression protected by a mass of felt wool and spines. Occasionally, the growing point is injured and its cells begin dividing unevenly. The new growth takes monstrous forms or twists or becomes fan-shaped. The growing point may gradually turn into a growth line and form crests, fans or domes at the top of the plant.

THE STORY OF SUCCULENTS

The term SUCCULENT (from the Latin word “succulentus”, meaning juicy or pulpy) describes a plant, which has developed special tissues for storing water. The storage tissue enables such a plant to absorb water and to retain it during dry periods.

Succulents from various plant families may be found in desert, alpine, jungle, and coastal habitats. The greatest number, however, are native to desert regions where the ability to conserve water is a valuable trait. 🌵

News You Can Use: Careful With Your Next Move!



Rogue moving companies continue to target Arizona, causing the Department of Weights and Measures to intervene on behalf of consumers whose property is being held hostage by companies that are trying to impose thousands of dollars in overcharges.

Weights and Measures helped 20 different consumers avoid unnecessary fees by movers over the past two years, saving consumers a total of \$42,769.50.

When Weights and Measures receives a complaint, they examine the paperwork and establish the appropriate cost of the move. If the charges are based on weight, the Department will have the truck weighed on a certified scale prior to delivery, and again after the property is unloaded. They may also work with other agencies, including local police departments and the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles, to make sure the moving vans are complying with all applicable laws.

Individual savings for consumers have ranged from a few hundred dollars to as much as \$7,700.

On June 25, Frances Waterman, 82, who is moving into a Glendale subsidized housing complex, avoided \$1,500 in excess charges by a company that had previously refused to deliver her goods. The woman was forced to sleep on a chair for several nights and had to borrow a bed because a moving company would not deliver her property.

The Department of Weights and Measures stepped in and made sure that Enigma Transportation Co., of Hillsborough, N.J., turned over her clothing and furniture without collecting the excess charges.

Some moving companies refuse to deliver a family's belongings unless they are paid thousands of dollars more than the original price. They often add on additional delivery and storage fees that continue to drive up the bill.

"This is a growing problem in this state," said Art Macias, Director of the Department of Weights and Measures. "Our concern is that too many consumers are unaware of their rights and may be paying unnecessary fees. We are continuing to investigate a growing number of complaints, and we have set up a special page on our website, www.azdwm.gov, to give people the facts they need."

While the Department of Weights and Measures is working with consumers who file a complaint, there is clear evidence that many people are unaware of their rights. Over Memorial Day weekend, for example, the Department acted on a complaint by just one consumer and saved her \$776, but then followed the same moving van to three other homes, and prevented another \$2,835 in unwarranted charges.

"This is a national problem, but Arizona is becoming ground zero for moving scams because our economy is strong and our state is growing," said Director Macias. "We are working with law enforcement officers in other states, including the Miami Office of the FBI, and this will continue to be a top priority for our Department."



Birthdays for July/August 2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
17	18 Keith Miller	19 Anthony Bocchino Ignacio Cruz Shelly Letcher	20	21	22	23 Richard Roberts
24	25 Daniel Chavez Frank Frondle	26 Guy King	27	28 Brett Cameron	29 Roland Mader	30
31	August 1 Hekmat Mamood Prescott Vandervoet Lizette Villagrana	2 Jan Todd	3	4	5 Steven McGill	6 John Frommelt
7 Julia Gantchev	8 William Cowan	9	10 Johnathon Cushman	11 Suzette Taylor	12	13
14	15 Eliseo Lucas					